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FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE  
HONG KONG BUREAU

MHK-6006  
1 May 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service  
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group  
SUBJECT : Monthly Report--Hong Kong Bureau--April 1986

I. GENERAL

A. Security around the Consulate and St. John's Building, as at other U.S. missions around the world, was tightened further following the mid-month U.S. attack on Libya. Members of the "Blue Berets," Hong Kong's elite police commando unit, are now guarding both buildings round-the-clock. Half a dozen Berets are on patrol at any time, either near the building entrances or along Garden Road. The Consulate had a bomb scare the afternoon of the 18th. The mail room received a suspicious package which, when viewed on the x-ray machine, revealed electrical wiring and batteries. It was a good readiness test for the police and they passed with flying colors. Swarms of police commandos and the bomb disposal squad were at the Consulate within minutes of the alert. The suspicious package turned out to be a fake explosive device, obviously the work of a prankster. Or, as someone suggested, the work of the RSO who wanted to see how quickly the police could respond.

B. The Consul General has sent a strongly-worded message to the Department on the controversial Bonham Road apartment complex. He is asking for authorization to renegotiate with the building owner and developer with the aim of getting out of the entire deal. He is stressing security considerations and the "quality of life of our staff," arguing that the apartments are far below the standards enjoyed by official Americans here over the decades. While the Department has taken the position that there is no legal way out of the deal, the Consul General is arguing that that is not necessarily so, that there are a couple of avenues worth pursuing. In private conversations he has expressed confidence that a deal can be made with the developer, if he can get the Department's approval. Two high-level State officials are scheduled to be in Hong Kong next week to look into the matter. A copy of the Consul General's message is attached (for Headquarters only).

C. At the request of the Deputy Principal Officer, the bureau has provided a written response to a questionnaire on whether the bureau could reduce the size of its American staff and transfer some of the work done here back to the States. This is a result of a directive from the Secretary of State on reducing the U.S. official presence abroad. All sections and

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agencies assigned to the Consulate had to respond to the Consulate questionnaire and then meet personally with the DPO to discuss the issue. The bureau chief and deputy chief met with the DPO on the 28th. He raised many tough questions, did a lot of probing, and played the devil's advocate, but in the end seemed to accept our arguments against any staff reductions. The mission response is to be sent out next week.

## II. OPERATIONS

### A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. Reception of Philippine radios remained stable during the month with the two main stations, FEBC and DZFM, monitorable throughout the month. During the first half of April, however, we had some difficulty getting timely delivery of our newspapers. Many evenings we received no papers, and when finally delivered most were several to many days late. With continued pressure on the local vendor and an adjustment in the time our courier makes his evening pickup, we were back on track by month's end, with most papers again arriving the evening of publication day. Highlights of our reporting this month included Defense Secretary Weinberger's visit and talks with President Aquino, the Batasan rump session, a series of pro-Marcos rallies and demonstrations with reports that Marcos money was behind it all, government negotiations with the NPA and efforts to work out a ceasefire, the growing move for secession in Mindanao and threats by the government to counter any such effort, and anti-U.S. demonstrations at the embassy and threats against Americans by Philippine Muslim supporters of Qaddafi.

2. A capable Ilocono translator was found during the month and we have arranged some part-time coverage of the station we have been hearing since early March. Unfortunately, we have encountered some difficulty getting a work schedule that satisfies both our needs and those of her regular employer. We are still working on this. Thus far the young lady has managed to come into the bureau several times to pick up tapes, which she then listens to and processes on her own time in the evening. Processed items are brought back to the bureau on her next trip. Not the best set-up, but it has enabled us to file some items from the station. We are hopeful that we can eventually work out a better arrangement. The young lady has good potential and a definite interest in working for us, so we want to keep this going as it is for the time being.

3. China News Service, which previously piggy-backed items on the Xinhua service we cover, went on its own during the month. We started receiving this new service at mid-month following installation of a separate line and fax printer. At roughly the same time CNS was going on its own, we started receiving occasional items from a third PRC news agency, which goes by the name ZHONGGUO TONGZUN SHE. Items are infrequent and thus far have appeared on both the CNS and Xinhua circuits.

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4. We received our first batch of S&T items from Headquarters this month. These were translated by contractors and returned to Headquarters last week. We have been slow in getting some sort of S&T translation effort off the ground. Hopefully, this marks the beginning of a regular and expanding effort.

### B. Communications

Like our sister bureaus, Seoul and Bangkok, we continued to experience a number of communications outages during the month. Most, however, were not serious and had little impact on bureau operations. The worst occurred on the 20th, when our Telex machine also went on the blink, leaving us temporarily with no means of sending items. Of more concern to us, at one point, was the growing suspicion that some items to and from the bureau were disappearing in the system. Many multitake items from Okinawa and Headquarters arrived here incomplete. There were other instances where messages between the bureau and the Wire were never seen. [ ] initiated a tracer action following the latest instance.

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### C. Technical

1. Our AFP circuit was upgraded to 300 baud during the month. The new service was compared with the old 75 baud circuit before the latter was disconnected. Both tend to transmit major stories within seconds of each other; the 300 baud circuit, however, tends to carry routine items earlier than the old circuit.

2. Our new microwave backup system, which is still to get off the ground, was inoperable most of the month as we awaited a spare part. After testing resumed, the system continued to go out of sync every couple of hours. It was determined that an incorrect switch setting at the factory was the problem. The system has been operating well since the setting was changed and testing goes on. Construction of another building in Wanchai which could possibly block our microwave got underway recently. We are attempting to get some information on it, especially its projected height.

3. During a farewell call on our contacts at Cable & Wireless this week, it was learned that the future of the Mt. Butler antenna field is again in question. We were told--in strict confidence--that they may have to return the land to the Hong Kong Government in 2 years. They are looking at other sites and assured us that they would have our interests in mind and that we would be given sufficient time for planning. This is all still very tentative, but will bear close watch and periodic contacts with C&W to see what is happening.

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### III. ADMINISTRATION

#### Personnel

1. Okinawa monitor [ ] transferred to Hong Kong PCS on 4 April. Her transfer gives this bureau two full-time Tagalog monitors.

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2. Summer staff rotations got underway early this year with Senior Editor [ ] arriving PCS on the 14th. He replaces [ ] who will transfer to Headquarters May 16th. [ ] however, will not be the first staffer to leave this year. The bureau chief heads up the list, departing the day after this report is written, on 2 May. A luncheon was held at the Red Pepper Restaurant on the 29th to say farewell to the [ ] and [ ] and to welcome [ ]

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3. Hong Kong's TLA rate was increased to US\$80 a day effective 27 April and the per diem rate goes up to US\$130 effective 1 May.

### IV. VISITS

A. Okinawa editor [ ] visited the bureau on the 18th.

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B. [ ] returned from her trip to the States, where she represented the bureau at the bureau chiefs conference, on 26 April.

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[ ]  
Bureau Chief

Attachment: Monthly Production Report

Copy of Consul General's Message to State (Hqs Only)

cc: Original and 3 - Hqs

1 - C/Bangkok

1 - C/Okinawa

1 - C/Seoul

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PP RUEHC  
DE RUMJNG #5331/31 093 \*\*  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
P 030441Z APR 85  
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6555  
BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 05331

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION DONALD J.  
BOUCHARD AND A/FBO DAS RICHARD N. DERTADIAN FROM LEVIN

EAP/C FOR RICHARD WILLIAMS

F.C. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: ABLD, AMGT

SUBJECT: BONHAM ROAD - TIME FOR ACTION

CLASS: CONFIDENTIAL  
CHRG: PROG 4/3/85  
APPRV: CG:BLEVIN  
DRFTD: CG:BLEVIN  
DPO:ALKORLER:  
EXS:ADORN  
DISTR: DPO-2 CG POL  
EC EXS DLO  
FCS JSIS CONS  
ADM GSO R/F  
PER RSO CUST  
DEA FAS FPIS  
INS LLO TDP  
CLO /23

REF: A) HONG KONG 04096; B) STATE 034737

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. IN THE WAKE OF LIBYAN DEVELOPMENT THERE NO LONGER CAN BE ANY HESITANCY ABO T TRYING OUR BEST TO GET OUT OF THE BONHAM ROAD DEAL. THE ARGUMENT THAT HONG KONG IS A LOW RISK AREA PALES AGAINST THE GROWING UNPREDICTABILITY OF THE SECURITY ENVIRONMENT FOR OFFICIAL AMERICANS ABROAD. MORE TO THE POINT, RECENT INTELLIGENCE REPORTING WARNS OF THE POSSIBILITY OF ARAB TERRORIST ATTACKS AGAINST AMERICAN TARGETS IN HONG KONG. ACCORDINGLY, WE HAVE TIGHTENED UP SECURITY AT OUR OFFICE BUILDING TO A POINT UNIMAGINABLE LESS THAN A YEAR AGO. WHILE MANNING THE RAMPARTS AT THE CONSUL TE GENERAL, DO WE THEN BLITHELY PROCEED WITH CONCENTRATING SEVENTY-NINE AMERICAN FAMILIES IN A TOWER WHOSE LOCATION AND CONFIGURATION RULE OUT ANY POSSIBILITY OF EFFECTIVE SECURIT ARRANGEMENTS? HOW DO WE EXPLAIN THIS INCONSISTENCY TO THE AMERICAN STAFF? HOW DO WE AVOID THE IMAGE OF CONCERN FOR THE EMPLOYEE AT WORK AND INDIFFERENCE TO THE FATE OF HIS DEPENDENTS AT HOME?

3. IN ADDITION TO SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS, THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF OUR STAFF IS ALSO AT STAKE. THE BONHAM FLATS ARE FAR BELOW THE STANDARDS ENJOYED BY OFFICIAL AMERICANS HERE OVER THE DECADES AND THE PROBLEM IS COMPOUNDED BY THE CROWDED, SEEDY SURROUNDINGS. AS OUR STAFF HAS VISITED THE NEARLY COMPLETED BONHAM ROAD TOWER, A RISING CHORUS OF PROTEST FROM ALL QUARTERS IS REVERBERATING THROUGH THIS POST. THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT IF WE PROCEED TO MOVE THE BULK OF OUR AMERICAN STAFF INTO THIS APARTMENT BLOCK IN THE NEXT YEAR, THE COMBINATION OF SECURITY CONCERNS AND DISPLEASURE WITH THE ACCOMMODATIONS WILL DO IMMENSE DAMAGE TO TH MORALE AND WELL-BEING OF OUR PERSONNEL.

4. I BELIEVE THERE IS A WAY OUT OF THIS DISMAL SCENARIO.

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7. AFTER CONVEYING THIS MESSAGE TO NEW WORLD, I PROPOSE THAT WE (ALONG WITH FBO) BEGIN SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS TO ACQUIRE ALTERNATE PROPERTIES ON AN INSTALLMENT PAYMENT BASIS, ALONG THE LINES SUGGESTED IN REF A. WE REMAIN CONFIDENT OF OUR ABILITY TO WRAP UP SUCH PURCHASES. THE HONG KONG PROPERTY MARKET IS STILL SOFT; THIS IS THE TIME TO STRIKE.

8. I CANNOT PROMISE THAT WE'LL SUCCEED, BUT WE MUST NOT FAIL TO GIVE IT OUR BEST SHOT. LEVIN

BT

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

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## HONG KONG BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR APRIL 1986

## I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	1334010
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	106530
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	2178

	BROAD-CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI-CATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:	5225	10140	308
III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES: (PUBLISHABLE WORDS PER MONTH)			

CHINA	
BEIJING INTERNATIONAL SERVICE IN TAGALOG	4340
BEIJING TELEVISION SERVICE IN MANDARIN	340
CHANGSHA HUNAN PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	9610
CHENGDU SICHUAN PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	11870
GUANGZHOU GUANGDONG PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	7510
GUIYANG GUIZHOU PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	5380
HAIKOU HAINAN ISLAND SERVICE IN MANDARIN	3340
KUNMING YUNNAN PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	5370
LANZHOU GANSU PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	4710
LHASA XIZANG REGIONAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	15400
NANNING GUANGXI REGIONAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	15410
TAIYUAN SHANXI PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	2980
URUMQI XINJIANG REGIONAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	7750
WUHAN HUBEI PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	11140
XIAN SHAANXI PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	13110
XINING QINGHAI PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	5760
ZHENGZHOU HENAN PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	11110
BEIJING XINHUA HONG KONG SERVICE IN CHINESE	

8490

BEIJING ZHONGGUO XINWEN SHE IN CHINESE	24190
HONG KONG ZHONGGUO TONGXUN SHE IN CHINESE	10230
BEIJING BAN YUE TAN IN CHINESE	13780
BEIJING BAOGAO WENXUE IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING BEIJING WANBAO IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING CHINA DAILY IN ENGLISH	36360
BEIJING GONGREN RIBAO IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING GUANGMING RIBAO IN CHINESE	16500
BEIJING GUOJI SHANGBAO IN CHINESE	1770
BEIJING GUOJI WENTI YANJIU IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING HONGQI IN CHINESE	128640
BEIJING HUANQIU IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING JIEFANGJUN WENYI IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING JINGJI CANKAO IN CHINESE	1400
BEIJING JINGJI GUANLI IN CHINESE	48900
BEIJING JINGJI RIBAO IN CHINESE	9540
BEIJING JINGJI YANJIU IN CHINESE	11310
BEIJING JINGJIXUE ZHOUBAO IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING LIAOWANG IN CHINESE	20040
BEIJING LILUN YUEKAN IN CHINESE	6740
BEIJING LISHI YANJIU IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING NONGMIN RIBAO IN CHINESE	4610
BEIJING RENMIN RIBAO IN CHINESE	80190
BEIJING RENMIN RIBAO OVERSEAS EDITION IN CHINESE	2600
BEIJING SHIJIE JINGJI IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING SHIJIE LISHI IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING SHIJIE ZHISHI IN CHINESE	1520
BEIJING WENXUE PINGLUN IN CHINESE	0



BEIJING WENYI BAO IN CHINESE	4220
BEIJING WENZHAI BAO IN CHINESE	600
BEIJING XINWEN ZHANXIAN IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING ZHEXUE YANJIU IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING ZHONGGUO FAZHI BAO IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING ZHONGGUO QINGNIAN BAO IN CHINESE	3650
CHENGDU SICHUAN RIBAO IN CHINESE	13010
CHONGQING CHONGQING RIBAO IN CHINESE	0
FUZHOU ZHONGGUO JINGJI WENTI IN CHINESE	0
GUANGZHOU GUANGZHOU RIBAO IN CHINESE	0
GUANGZHOU KAIFANG IN CHINESE	6500
GUANGZHOU NANFANG RIBAO IN CHINESE	8380
GUANGZHOU YANGCHENG WANBAO IN CHINESE	0
HAIKOU HAINAN RIBAO IN CHINESE	0
HONG KONG LIAOWANG OVERSEAS EDITION IN CHINESE	35600
KUNMING YUNNAN RIBAO IN CHINESE	6350
KUNMING YUNAN SIXIANG ZHANXIAN IN CHINESE	0
LANZHOU GANSU RIBAO IN CHINESE	0
LANZHOU LANZHOU WANBAO IN CHINESE	0
SHANGHAI SHIJIE JINGJI DAOBAO IN CHINESE	0
TAIYUAN SHANXI RIBAO IN CHINESE	770
WUHAN CHANGJIANG RIBAO IN CHINESE	17230
WUHAN HUBEI RIBAO IN CHINESE	0
XIAN SHAANXI RIBAO IN CHINESE	7610
XIAN XIBEI XINXI DAOBAO IN CHINESE	680
YINCHUAN NINGXIA RIBAO IN CHINESE	15490
ZHENGZHOU HENAN RIBAO IN CHINESE	0

HONG KONG		
HONG KONG ASIA TELEVISION LTD IN		
ENGLISH	0	
HONG KONG TELEVISION BROADCAST LTD IN		
ENGLISH	0	
HONG KONG COMMERCIAL RADIO IN		
ENGLISH	650	
HONG KONG DOMESTIC SERVICE IN		
ENGLISH	620	
HONG KONG AFP IN		
ENGLISH		130080
HONG KONG ASIAWEEK IN		
ENGLISH		1900
HONG KONG CHANWANG IN		
CHINESE		0
HONG KONG CHENG MING IN		
CHINESE		5860
HONG KONG CHING PAO IN		
CHINESE		9960
HONG KONG CHIUSHIH NIENTAI IN		
CHINESE		500
HONG KONG FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW IN		
ENGLISH		1440
HONG KONG HONG KONG STANDARD IN		
ENGLISH		12860
HONG KONG HONG KONG STANDARD (BUSINESS STANDARD SUPPLEMENT) IN		
ENGLISH		5500
HONG KONG HSIN WAN PAO IN		
CHINESE		2360
HONG KONG KUANG CHIAO CHING IN		
CHINESE		7730
HONG KONG MING PAO IN		
CHINESE		3590
HONG KONG PAI HSING IN		
CHINESE		3600
HONG KONG SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST IN		
ENGLISH		35610
HONG KONG SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST (BUSINESS NEWS SUPPLEMENT) IN		
ENGLISH		20180
HONG KONG TA KUNG PAO IN		
CHINESE		18960
HONG KONG TA KUNG PAO IN		
ENGLISH		6190
HONG KONG WEN WEI PO IN		
CHINESE		20800
NEW ZEALAND		
AUCKLAND THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD IN		
ENGLISH		3280
WELLINGTON THE EVENING POST IN		
ENGLISH		8570

PHILIPPINES	
MANILA FAR EAST BROADCASTING COMPANY IN	
ENGLISH	19850
MANILA FAR EAST BROADCASTING COMPANY IN	
TAGALOG	3880
DAGUPAN CITY DZDL RADIO IN	
TAGALOG	2040
LAOAG CITY NATION BROADCASTING CORP., STATION DWRI IN	
ILOCANO	1960
QUEZON CITY DZFM RADIO IN	
ENGLISH	46860
MANILA MANILA BULLETIN IN	
ENGLISH	37630
MANILA MR. & MS. (SPECIAL EDITION) IN	
ENGLISH	0
MANILA PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER IN	
ENGLISH	14820
MANILA THE MANILA EVENING POST IN	
ENGLISH	19660
MANILA THE MANILA TIMES IN	
ENGLISH	2910
MANILA THE NEWS HERALD IN	
ENGLISH	23230
MANILA THE NEW PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS IN	
ENGLISH	25760
MANILA THE NEW PHILIPPINES SUNDAY EXPRESS IN	
ENGLISH	2850
MANILA THE SUNDAY TIMES IN	
ENGLISH	2750
MANILA TIMES JOURNAL IN	
ENGLISH	570
DAVAO CITY MINDANAO TIMES IN	
ENGLISH	840
DAVAO CITY PEOPLE'S DAILY FORUM IN	
ENGLISH	840
DAVAO CITY THE DAILY SAN PEDRO EXPRESS IN	
ENGLISH	5340
DAVAO CITY THE MINDANAO DAILY MIRROR IN	
ENGLISH	1230
QUEZON CITY ANG PAHAYAGANG MALAYA IN	
ENGLISH	18910
QUEZON CITY BUSINESS DAY IN	
ENGLISH	107260
QUEZON CITY NEW DAY IN	
ENGLISH	4570
QUEZON CITY VERITAS IN	
ENGLISH	4530
QUEZON CITY WE FORUM IN	
ENGLISH	3450